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20 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, EE, FE, NE, SE, WE, SR, WH

SUBJECT : Instructions for the Preparation of an Area Analysis  
Contributing to the Formulation of a National Psychological Strategy

1. The Psychological Strategy Board is seeking a method for the early formulation of a national psychological strategy and how that strategy will assure the attainment of our national objectives which have recently been approved by the National Security Council as follows:

"Place maximum strain on the Soviet structure of power, including the relationships between the USSR, its satellites, and Communist China; and when and where appropriate in the light of U. S. and Soviet capabilities and the risk of war, contribute to the retraction and reduction of Soviet power and influence to limits which no longer constitute a threat to U. S. security.

"Strengthen the orientation toward the United States of the peoples and nations of the free world, and increase their capacity and will to resist Soviet domination."

2. The optimum objective might be the instigation of successful revolution in the USSR and/or successful revolution in one or more of the satellite countries.

3. Prior to any decision, however, an estimate of current or prospective capabilities and a survey of means available must be made. As a first step, ops has been called upon to prepare a study of the approach to a "national psychological strategy" from the point of view of our greatest capabilities, both present and prospective, dealing largely with areas and techniques. There would be included in this paper, some discussion of other (non covert) measures which would be required in order to provide a framework for operations or to consolidate and guarantee the gains which our efforts might be successful in producing.

4. In order to develop a global appraisal, it is first necessary to survey the geographical segments which can be later merged into the categories of the USSR, the satellite orbit, the Communist fringe, and the free world. It must be borne in mind that capabilities cannot be assessed in vacuo, but must be considered in relation to regional potentialities, as well as the Communist vulnerabilities within the area.

5. The Area Divisions

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5. The Area Divisions are requested to prepare by 29 February 1952 a concise analysis of the U. S. capabilities within their respective geographical area, using the attached outline for further consideration in the preparation of this report.

BY DIRECTION OF DD/P.

[ ]  
Acting Assistant Director  
for Police Coordination

Attachment: Outline Format

FY/CPP/FRZ:blr

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STAFF STUDY ON VARIOUS GEOGRAPHICAL AREA CONSIDERATIONS  
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL COLD WAR STRATEGY

- I. PROBLEM: To examine the area contribution to the formulation of a U. S. cold war global strategy.
- II. BASIC ASSUMPTION: The Kremlin, without recourse to general war for the next five years, will carry out an unrelenting expansion of the cold war in an attempt to gain world-wide communist domination.
- III. PURPOSE: a. To determine uniformly and objectively the principal factors affecting the strategic concepts of the geographical areas from which an integrated cold war global strategy can be evolved.
- b. To assess U. S. area capabilities as a first approach to the development of a national strategy.
- IV. DISCUSSION: There are many who believe that the containment philosophy has run its course, that it is a policy and strategy of negativism; at best, a holding action, and, at worst, a piecemeal commitment of national resources without substantive results. There are many more who believe that the cold war never will be won except through a concentrated offensive aimed at the primary source of conspiratorial revolution--the Kremlin. A strategy needs to be evolved which assesses our own strength and capabilities to seize the

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initiative, reappraises the vulnerabilities of the Soviet Union, reevaluates the strategy of the Communists, equates the risks we are willing to accept, and prescribes the principal course of action to pursue. All the national effort should be concertedly brought to bear on the target as quickly as possible—by methods and within zones of our own choosing.

V. CONSIDERATIONS:

a. Although our agency does not create policy and does not operate in the overt field, our clandestine operations are profoundly affected (either favorably or unfavorably) by virtue of the national policy.

b. Consequently, it is entirely appropriate for this agency—in our cooperation with the PSB—to indicate to the PSB any aspects of existing national policy which may offer a roadblock to the development of an effective Ops Strategic Plan which we are charged with preparing under NSC 10/2. It is also wholly appropriate for this agency to suggest to PSB the adoption of new and affirmative policy which would clearly improve the effectiveness of our strategic program of clandestine operations.

c. Consequently, FI/ops is submitting the following list of topics to the Area Divisions for specific comment:

Please attempt to:

(1) Isolate and define the major issues of conflict between the Soviet Bloc and "The West" in your area.

(2) List, in order

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(2) List, in order of their importance, the prevailing conditions (political, economic, social, and psychological) which tend to nurture and improve the Soviet's position with respect to these issues.

(3) Conversely, list these conditions (political, economic, social, or psychological) prevailing in your area which significantly impede or menace the Soviet's program.

(4) Indicate the principal communist vulnerabilities with respect to your area.

(5) If applicable to your area, indicate whether or not there exists an overriding adverse factor (or factors) which must first be solved before we shall be in a position successfully to prosecute any program of covert psychological warfare.

(6) (a) List the major strategic factors which now block or cripple Western efforts in your area.

(b) Of these presently adverse factors, indicate which of them are most susceptible to favorable alteration by U.S. (and/or Allied) manipulation.

(c) What particular technique might be applied?

(7) What existing potentialities within your area need vigorous reinforcement for maximum exploitation?

(8) What alteration

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(8) What alteration in our existing (national) strategic policy or the establishment of what new policy is required to insure conditions prerequisite to successful cold war operations in your area?

(9) What external influences (either favorable or unfavorable) exist which have a significant impact upon the outcome of our strategic approach to problems in your area?

(10) What prospects do you believe exist for developing deception measures with respect to global strategy?

(11) Summarize the most feasible courses of action which can be taken within the next 12 months in your area and detail the covert capability to support such actions.

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